

LDOE Weekly Newsletter



June 9, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As a Louisiana native, I'm humbled to be your new State Superintendent. I'm thankful for the work led by John White during his nine years in this office. I hope my tenure will be equally productive. I've wanted to be a school leader since first grade, so I'm very excited – and that's an understatement. I appreciate BESE appointing me to this role, the Senate unanimously confirming me, and the thousands of stakeholders I've worked with throughout my career. I'm not Superman, but I'll work super hard.

The task ahead is monumental – not just for me, but for all of us. Students deserve an outstanding education no matter what. A quality education is life-transforming. It impacts families and communities. Despite the many challenges we're facing in America, now is not the time to retreat on student outcomes and opportunities. We must all do our part to help students learn, thrive, and grow – that means me and you.

We're at a pressure point in American public education. The health pandemic has illuminated the vital role schools play in a successful community. At a base level, we're childcare. Beyond that, we're everything a child could ever need to be successful in life. We've always known the extra mile our educators go to step into the gaps, but that fact is more evident than ever. While our school buildings were closed, you provided meals, mental health support, home learning resources, phone calls, emails, waves, and smiles. Thank you!

We're full speed ahead to ensure a Strong Start to the school year. Our kids deserve nothing less. In addition to [Strong Start resources currently available on our website](#), we're working on a plan that provides guidelines, as well as supportive guidance for reopening. We will have this information available soon. We will not provide a blanket, one-size-fits-all plan of how schools should reopen and operate. Instead, our guidelines and supportive guidance will frame local decision-making given the nuances of settings across our state.

Other than a global health pandemic, our nation is also hurting and grappling with issues of social injustice. This is not a new concern, but it does deserve a renewed commitment of action. An effective educational system doesn't simply sustain our democracy; instead, it improves it. And now, clearly, is a time where democracy must be improved. I've always strived to work with an equity agenda, pushing additional resources and attention to students and communities that needed it most. I've gathered feedback from multiple perspectives and have always built diverse, inclusive teams. Regardless of beliefs, identity, address, skin color, citizenship, ability, gender, or income, all students can achieve high expectations – and we should set those.

I recognize the impacts systemic racism has on our Black students, families, and employees. We stand with our Black community and against racism of any kind. Whether it's implicit or explicit, conscious or subconscious – racism is wrong. As educators, we must be part of the solution. I will seek opportunities to create a more just educational system. Students don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care. It matters that our Black students know we see them, we love them, and we are here to help them move forward. I look forward to being part of the discussion and solution for a fairer, more equitable, and just Louisiana – one I can tell my grandkids I helped create.

Dr. Cade Brumley
State Superintendent of Education

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Important Dates for School Systems

Upcoming Events

- [Strong Start 2020: Students with Disabilities Work Group](#): June 15 at 10:30 a.m.
- [Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call](#): July 7 at 4:15 p.m.

Important Deadlines

- [K-3 Literacy Screener Selection](#) deadline: June 12
- [Expanded SNAP Benefits Application](#) deadline: June 15
- [Transition Support Resources for Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities RFA](#) deadline: June 15
- 2021 ESSA MOE Verification deadline: June 15
- 2021 IDEA MOE Verification (Eligibility Review) deadline: June 15
- [Updated Professional Development Plan \(CIR Schools\)](#) deadline: June 26

School System Support

New: COVID-19 Guidance

Louisiana's school facilities were closed in March 2020 through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Please reference the Department's [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#) webpage for regularly updated guidance. Review the [K-12 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is specific to the concerns of school systems for the most up-to-date information. Child care providers should refer to the [Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions](#) for specific guidance. For education-specific information, contact the Department at LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov.

Please contact the Louisiana 211 Network by dialing 211 with questions about coronavirus, or text the keyword LACOV1D to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

New: Every Child Counts – 2020 Census

By now, every home has received an invitation to participate in the [2020 Census](#).

The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.
- Maternal and child health programs.
- Planning, preparedness, and recovery efforts for national emergencies, including [COVID-19](#).

Self-responses, which can be completed [online](#), by phone, or by mail until October 31, **ensures federal funding to support Louisiana students**. View the most recent [Louisiana 2020 Census Self-Response Weekly Highlights](#) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau Atlanta Region.

The Department encourages school systems to explore the newly available [2020 Census Toolbox](#) to find activities specially designed to be engaging and appropriate for each grade level, from counting for kindergarteners to examining career statistics for high schoolers.

Please contact ldoecommunications@la.gov with questions.

New: Super App

An upcoming deadline for Super App is listed below.

- **By June 26:** School systems with CIR schools must upload their updated professional development plan in eGMS.

Please contact ldoe.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Instructional Material and PD Vendor Guide Updates

Please share with Chief Academic Officers, curriculum coordinators, professional development coordinators, and purchasing directors.

The Strong Start 2020 plan includes [Instructional Materials Guidance](#) and [Professional Development Guidance](#), and the Department continues to work with publishers and vendors to update each guide as they build and refine their supports.

This week, the following entries have been **added**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
MyPerspectives: Savvas Learning Company	Agile Mind Louisiana Mathematics: UT Dana Center
	Eureka Math: UT Dana Center
	Open SciEd: UT Dana Center

This week, the following entries have been significantly **updated**:

Instructional Materials Guidance	Professional Development Guidance
Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA): Amplify	

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series Follow-Up:

Thank you for attending the 2020 Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series.

Download Summit Materials

Educators can find materials from most sessions in the [Teacher Leader library](#).

Watch the Session Videos

If participants missed a session or weren't able to register, most sessions were recorded. The recordings are shared on the Department's [YouTube playlist](#).

Confirmation of Attendance

A full list of registered participants can be found in the [Teacher Leader library](#). The Department did not track individual session attendance. However, a school system may choose to ask participants to login to [Sched](#) and print a copy of their full schedule as proof of attendance, as desired.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with any questions.

New: Expanded SNAP Benefits Application Deadline Extended

[Louisiana received approval](#) for the new Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This program will provide extra help buying groceries for the families who normally receive free and reduced-price meals at school. This includes all families attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school. To receive these benefits, families must be notified of the benefits and must [complete an application by June 15](#).

The Department has created a [digital flyer](#), which links to the application portal and FAQs, that can be used to notify parents of their eligibility for these benefits.

Please visit the [Ask LDOE](#) page and choose *P-EBT* from the subject dropdown with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana's Academic Strategy for 2020-2021

The [Academic Strategy for 2020-2021](#) presentation at the Teacher Leader Summit and School Support Institutes is available in the [Teacher Leader](#) and [School Improvement Library](#). This [presentation](#) reviews Louisiana's plan for school improvement, the school system planning process, and the vision and strategy for the upcoming year. This presentation also releases the additional implementation actions and observation tools aligned to the 2020-2021 strategy and priorities.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Back-to-School Resources

The Department today released a suite of free resources to help parents and educators address unfinished learning from the 2019-2020 school year and ensure a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year.

The 2020-2021 back-to-school resources include:

- The [2020-2021 Educator Resource Guide](#), which highlights instructional priorities and resources to support educators with a strong start to the 2020-2021 school year. The guide is located in the [School System](#), [Principal](#), and [Teacher](#) Toolboxes and will be updated each month.
- An updated [2020-2021 School System Support Calendar](#), which details training sessions, virtual support, tools and resources, and communication streams designed to support educators.
- [Parent Back-to-School Guides](#) that provide families with information and resources to support learning, whether it takes place in the traditional classroom or at home, for the 2020-2021 school year. Guides are currently available for parents of students in grades pre-K–2, 3–12, English Learners, and students with disabilities. Translated versions will soon be available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
- [School Plan Family Presentation](#), which, as required by law, provides a template for school leaders to communicate school performance data, their school improvement plan, timelines for implementation and attainment of performance goals, and implications to families.

Please contact doecommunications@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Work Permits for Minors

State law requires any business hiring a minor to obtain an employment certificate. These employment certificates are to be issued by either:

- The Parish or city public school superintendent or by his designated representative
- The principal of a public or private school or by her designated representative

To fill the gap at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, LWC began issuing blanket work permits for minors throughout the entire state. However, these temporary certificates are good for only 60 days and have since expired. Because of this, school systems are urged to immediately begin reissuing work permits.

Please review the following statutes under Title 23:

- [§182. Employers to keep record](#)
- [§188. Records kept by issuing authority](#)
- [§183. Persons authorized to issue](#)
- [§192. Certificate as evidence of age of minors](#)
- [§187. Signing of certificate by minor; return by employer after termination of employment](#)

Please contact dlarocca@lwc.la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Leadership Learning Series

Last week, the Department hosted the virtual Leadership Learning Series. This series included the Academic Strategy/LAP Session and the School Support Institutes: Building Blocks Sessions. The following resources are now available:

- [Academic Strategy-LAP slide deck](#)
- [Academic Strategy-LAP webinar recording](#)
- [Building Blocks slide deck](#)
- [Building Blocks webinar recording](#)
- [Summer Milestones with due dates.](#)
- [Office Hours slide deck](#)
- [SSI FAQs](#)
- [School Support Institutes 2020-2021: A Guide for Superintendents and School System Leaders slide deck](#)

Additionally, the new K–2 Classroom Support Tool, 3–12 Classroom Support Tool, Common Planning Time Support Tool, and Summer Milestones 2020 are posted in the [School Improvement Library](#).

Leadership team members from CIR and UIR-A schools who were unable to attend the live **Building Blocks session** should review the recording and slide deck, and complete the embedded Jotform attendance documentation, after viewing the webinar. **This is for the Building Blocks session only.**

Please contact delaina.larocque@la.gov with questions.

Assessment and Accountability

For District Testing Coordinators and Accountability Contacts

New: LEAP 360

- School systems that plan to administer any or all of the assessments in the LEAP 360 suite in 2020-2021 must submit an [updated MOU](#) by June 26 to assessment@la.gov. A copy of the MOU has been posted to the [Assessment Library](#).

New: Pre-K to Third Grade Assessments

- The [2020-2021 GOLD Guidance](#) has been released for Early Childhood, OSEP, and KEA.
- The [2020-2021 Pre-K to Third Grade Assessment Guidance](#) has been released. The two approved Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) options are DRDP-K and TS GOLD KEA. The four approved K-3 Literacy Screener options are Acadience Reading formerly DIBELS Next, DIBELS 8th Edition, STEEP, and STEP.
- School systems must complete the [K-3 Literacy Screener Selection](#) to indicate the assessment choice for their school system by **this Friday, June 12**.

New: High School Summer Test Administration

- The high school summer test administration schedule has changed to July 13–24.
- There is no remote access option.

New: ACT

- ACT announced new flexibilities for summer testing and new test-at-home options that will become available in the fall and winter. Information about at-home testing with remote proctoring will be shared as it becomes available.
- ACT State Administration
 - October 6 and October 20 paper-based administration only for students who were juniors in 2019-2020 and were unable to test in March or June. The Department will cover the cost for one administration per student.

Update: Waivers for Testing

- To date, the only students who have a waiver from the assessment graduation requirements are graduating seniors who were enrolled at the time of school closing and were in the February 1 enrollment report.
- The current waiver does not apply to students who were not enrolled in school or students who are not yet eligible to graduate.
- This month, the Department will request a change in policy to waive the assessment requirement for a high school assessment-eligible course earned during the regular school year in 2019-2020 (not including summer credit recovery) for students who would have been initial testers in spring 2020. Students who failed a subject test in a prior administration will not be eligible for the waiver of the assessment requirement.

Assessment Administration Support and Training Office Hours

The next Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call will be on July 7 at 4:15 p.m. Webinar details are listed below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** July 7 at 4:15 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/202189164>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923
- **Meeting ID#:** 202 189 164

High School Pathways

New: Advanced Placement Exam Updates

Please share with Advanced Placement coordinators, high school counselors, and principals.

AP Exam final invoices will be generated through [AP Registration and Ordering](#). Schools will be emailed next week when the invoice is available. The postmark deadline for payment is June 26.

To ensure accurate score reporting for Spring 2020 AP Exams, confirm students have the **correct school code** listed on the student roster in [AP Registration and Ordering](#) and help them correct any mistakes. For more information, view a short video on [Student Rosters](#).

Please contact meredith.mcGovern@la.gov with questions.

New: 2020-2021 Course Choice/SCA Catalog

Please share with professional school counselors and district high school coordinators.

Registration for Course Choice 2020-2021 will open on July 1. The preliminary [2020-2021 Preliminary Course Choice Catalog](#) is now available. Schools will register students directly with the course provider, colleges, and/or universities. Please refer to the [Course Choice Registration Instructions](#) for details on this process. Once students are registered, schools should document enrollments in the [Course Choice Reporting System](#).

Course Choice provides students and schools with access to a broad variety of course offerings from online, face-to-face, industry training, and dual enrollment course providers.

Please contact sca@la.gov with questions.

New: Strong Start 2020 Non-core and CTE Curriculum and Course Materials Update

Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators and school system leaders.

The [Career and Technical Education Vendor Guide](#), included in the [Strong Start 2020 Non-core and CTE Curriculum and Course Materials Guidance](#), has been updated to include specific information on system requirements to install and run software and system requirements to test Industry-based Certifications.

The [2020-2021 Supplemental Course Allocation Preliminary Provider Directory](#) has been updated to include ACT Preparation in the Types of Coursework grid. This is in addition to CTE, non-core, and core Type of Content currently identified.

These additions have been added to guidance documents in order to assist school systems in making informed decisions for a Strong Start to the 2020-2021 school year.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Quest for Success Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities

Please share with CTE supervisors/coordinators, school system leaders, and counselors.

The dynamic [2020 Jump Start Super Summer Institute Digital Training Opportunities](#) guide has been updated to include additional Quest for Success training opportunities. This training opportunities document is not comprehensive and will continue to be updated as additional training options are confirmed.

Registration costs for training sessions are paid directly to the provider and not to the Department. Carl Perkins and Career Development Funds are eligible funding sources for registration.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Carl Perkins Data Collection for Core Indicator Reporting

Please share with school system secondary supervisors and career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, data managers, school leadership, and professional school counselors.

Beginning with the data collection cycle for 2019-2020, the Department will no longer be utilizing the Career and Technical Education (C.A.T.E.) Data System for collecting or reporting data required for federal CTE and Perkins reports. For 2019-2020 reporting, the Department will generate and provide Perkins Core Indicator reports to school systems and the United States Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Adult Education. Each school system should access the [C.A.T.E. portal](#) to download any needed information or reports. The system will remain open through June 30.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: NCCER Module Assessments and Performance Profile Evaluations

Please share with school system secondary supervisors and career and technical education supervisors/coordinators, school leadership, and professional school counselors.

As Louisiana is now in Phase I of reopening, Craft Instructors can [provide face-to-face proctored pen and paper](#) for NCCER Module assessments and NCCER Performance Profile evaluations. These may occur as long as the Craft Instructor is following the state and school system's guidance during this health emergency.

To access the [online testing system](#), contact the Sponsor Representative at martha.moore@la.gov. [Remote proctoring](#) will continue to be available through July 31 should circumstances prevent classes from meeting in person at Accredited Training and Education Facilities.

Please contact jumpstart@la.gov with questions.

Educator Preparation

New: Science Content Leader Training

BESE has approved three providers to begin offering Science Content Leader training:

- University of Texas, Dana Center
- Great Minds, PhD Science
- SchoolKit Group

The training details, including contact information, can be found on page 7 of the [approved provider list](#).

Please contact louisianateacherleaders@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Louisiana Principal Fellowship (NISL) Nominations and Orientation Dates

The deadline for the [nomination form](#) for school leaders and upcoming school leaders to participate in the 2020-2021 Louisiana Principal Fellowship (operated by the National Institute of School Leadership) closed on June 5. Completion of this form will enroll participants in NISL's Executive Development Program (EDP) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Participants nominated by June 5 will be emailed a link to reserve their choice of dates for a mandatory virtual orientation. Participants only need to enroll in one of the orientation sessions available July 10, 17, or 24 from 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Please note, this year's program will be held virtually until further notice.

School systems will be invoiced by NISL after participants complete orientation and Unit one of the EDP. More information about the Louisiana Principal Fellowship is also [available](#).

Please contact jennie.moctezuma@la.gov for more information.

Reminder: Intervention Content Leader Registration

Registration is now open for 2020-2021 [Intervention Content Leaders](#). Intervention Content Leaders will serve as school building level experts to support ELA and math teachers, along with instructional leadership teams, in using the diverse learners cycle to ensure all students, including diverse learners, achieve mastery of grade-level standards. School systems should register participants with strong content knowledge and expertise in Tier 1 curriculum.

Please contact diverselearnersupport@la.gov with questions.

Reminder Extension of Teacher and Leader Certificates

The Department previously shared information regarding regulatory flexibilities that are needed due to COVID-19. One flexibility is the renewal and or extension of teacher and leader certificates that require Compass evaluations for renewal. These automatic extensions of teacher and leader certificates have been completed. Please check certificate validity before submitting an application for a renewal or extension. Applications submitted for extensions or renewals of certificates already extended will be returned unprocessed.

Please contact certification@la.gov with questions.

Special Education

New: Strong Start 2020: Students with Disabilities Work Group (Rescheduled)

The Department will host the Strong Start 2020: Students with Disabilities Work Group to provide space for school system special education leaders to share ideas and to collect feedback on the Strong Start process. This group will discuss compensatory services at its first meeting. This meeting has been rescheduled due to Tropical Storm Christobal. Updated meeting information is included below.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** June 15 at 10:30 a.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/94758256757>
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 646-876-9923 (for dial-in only)
- **Meeting ID#:** 947 5825 6757

To prepare for the work group, review the Strong Start [resources](#) for the Students with Diverse Needs indicators and the [Strong Start Compensatory Services Guidance](#).

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Reminder: Updated Strong Start Compensatory Services Guidance for Students with Disabilities

The Department updated the recent [Strong Start Compensatory Services Guidance](#) to support school systems in conducting reviews for compensatory services for every student with a disability and providing compensatory services to eligible students. This resource is located on the Department's [Strong Start](#) webpage and the [Students with Disabilities](#) webpage.

Please contact specialeducation@la.gov with questions.

Safe and Healthy Schools

Reminder: RAVE Panic Button Training

The Governor's Office and Louisiana State Police now offer the Rave Panic Button to all K–12 school systems and schools across the state, as well as a companion application for 9-1-1 Centers.

Those interested are encouraged to join the Rave Mobile Safety Louisiana Virtual User Group training scheduled for June 10. [Registration](#) is now open.

During this 90-minute event, attendees will learn:

- How Rave Panic Button can help during COVID-19 health emergency
- New features and functionality
- Product training and next steps based on your school's deployment status
- School safety best practices and lessons learned

There will also be a special breakout room for local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAPs) to learn more about Panic Button.

Please contact mbenton@ravemobilesafety.com with questions.

Reminder: School-based Medicaid

If applicable, school systems should update current Medicaid contact information by providing changes in name, email address, physical address and/or phone number to anissa.young@la.gov for the following positions:

- Medicaid Coordinator
- Business Manager
- Special Education Director

School systems that will not be in operation for the upcoming school year must notify DXC immediately. Please contact DXC Provider Enrollment via the address below or fax (225-216-6392) the closing date of the school system.

DXC Provider Enrollment
P.O. Box 80159
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0159

School systems that will not be in operation for the upcoming school year must also contact anissa.young@la.gov with a future billing address and/or contact person for inquiries regarding final cost report settlement transactions.

Please contact anissa.young@la.gov with questions.